



Non-Profit Organization
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Permit #6
St. Charles, MO 63301

800 Friedens Road, Suite 200
St. Charles, MO 63303
636.949.2425

F.A.C.T.'s mission is to mentor and empower families through advocacy and training to improve the quality of life and opportunities for children and young adults with disabilities.

Consider making a difference in the life of a child with disabilities by making your tax deductible donation.

Executive Director's Corner

As our organization grows it is important to us to provide quality services and to have nationally recognized standards. So that we may reach and exceed the highest of standards, we have decided to become accredited. Accreditation will ensure that our programs are cutting edge and continually evaluated according to national standards. It will provide enhanced credibility with our funding sources, and it will show our customers that our programs are exceptional.

Lynne Schroeder has been hired specifically to help us achieve this goal. In February we will be going through a "mock" accreditation process. This is a way for us to learn what we have already accomplished, what still needs to be accomplished, and how to achieve our ultimate goal. It prepares us for the expectations that we will have to meet in order to become accredited. We hope that our parents and consumers will freely share their experiences with our organization. Thank you for your continued support.

Denise Gould

F.A.C.T.

Winter Newsletter 2008
800 Friedens Road, Suite 200
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“Music of our Hearts” Karaoke 12.18.2007



Drinks, prizes, live auction, singing and dancing? What more could we have wanted that chilly Tuesday night before Christmas? Our fourth annual “Music of our Hearts” event at Brewskeez was a tremendous success. F.A.C.T. raised over \$5000.00 that evening. Thanks go to all who participated in the raffle, 50/50, and the live auction. Thanks to Karaoke Gordon and Auctioneer Andy for donating their time and considerable skills. Gordon also donated four hours of karaoke time to the highest bidder which ended up being the largest bid of the evening at \$675. The His and Hers package came in second place selling for \$650. Third place were the *Wicked* tickets that sold for \$540. Each year is more successful than the last, and we deeply appreciate everyone’s participation.



Thanks to all singers including Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Soggy Bottom Boys, Loretta Lynn, and Patsy Cline. You all brightened the evening with your amazing talents. One final giant THANK YOU to all for making the evening a success.



Partnership Celebration

12.06.2007

Parents and children alike enjoyed a lovely Thursday night out. While Moms and Dads were eating chicken or steak at the Stegton Banquet Center in St. Charles, the kids were enjoying pizza, popcorn, and soda at the movie theater. Each child got to choose whether they wanted to see the "Bee Movie" or "Fred Claus" and we had about a 50/50 split between the two. Even though it was sleeting and snowing outside these brave troopers came out to enjoy a night of fun. We had over 100 kids and 80 parents who participated this year.

We appreciate all of our families and we hope that you enjoyed your evening as much as we did. Thanks to all the Respite workers whose invaluable aid ensures a safe and enjoyable evening for all, and thanks to Sarah and Sam Cooper for helping with the photography and check-in process.



!! Save the Date !!

Our annual Gala will be held April 25, 2008 at
Old Hickory Golf Club.
Mark your calenders now.

F.A.C.T. would like to graciously thank the
Harmon Foundation for our 2008 grant.
Many families in our community will be the
recipients of this support through scholarship
awards, parent library enhancements, and
emergency grants.

Adopt-a-Family

12.16.2007

It happened again. A snowstorm on one of our event days. So far this winter we are two for three. Most families were able to venture out that snowy Sunday morning, but some had to wait to pick up their gifts until the following Monday after the plow trucks had some time to clear the roads. St. Charles hasn't seen that much snow since Christmas Eve 2002. Some of us snow junkies, while sorry for the Adopt-a-Family inconvenience, were ecstatic about the snow. Kids everywhere were able to put on snow suits and snow boots that had been collecting dust in the basement from lack of use. Snowmen sprouted, sleds were pulled down from the garage rafters, and the city was alive with its first decent snow in five years.

On December 6, Raymond Castile of the *St. Peters Journal* stated that "Several families will not have presents this Christmas if donors do not come forward before Dec. 15." Happily, kind people everywhere stepped up to the plate, and made wishes come true for fifty-one of our families. Thanks to our Parent Partner Laura Bickford for organizing the event, to St. Joachim and Ann for their continued support of needy families, and mostly to the people who help the less fortunate during the holiday season.

Continuing Advocacy Support Group

1st Wednesday of each month
6:30-8:30 PM at F.A.C.T.
800 Friedens Road, Suite 200
St. Charles, MO 63303

RSVP to FACT 636-949-2425 ext. 256
Web site: www.factmo.org

ADHD

Support Group

1st Thursday of each month.
6:30-8:30 PM at F.A.C.T.
800 Friedens Road, Suite 200
St. Charles MO 63303

RSVP to FACT 636-949-2425 ext. 256
Web site: www.factmo.org

Support Group for Parents of Children
in the Partnership With Families Program
(Must be receiving services from P.W.F. Program)

3rd Tuesday of each month
6:00-8:00 PM at Crider Center
1032 Crosswinds Court
Wentzville MO, 63385
636-949-2425 ext. 263

New Employees

In the last few months F.A.C.T. has acquired some new faces. Jeanie Adams has chosen to expand her horizons in the world of package delivery and has taken a position at Fed EX. We wish her well in her new career.



Heather Lytle will be the new Administrative Assistant for Audrey Yarbrough. She has a BA in English, and a Master's Degree in Education. She will assist with our various programs and fundraisers, as well as other administrative tasks.



Additionally we have hired a Transition Specialist, Rob Cracchiola. Rob is known to some of the F.A.C.T. staff as he shared an office with F.A.C.T. for a few years while he worked for the Child Day Care Association. He has a BA and a Master's Degree in Psychology and will be working with parents to ensure that their children have a transition plan in place so that each graduate may smoothly move from high school to adult services.



And lastly we have a new Advocate, Cathy Wood. Cathy has a BA in Social Work and has previously worked with and advocated for adults with developmental disabilities.

F.A.C.T. Workshop Schedule

Basic
Legal Rights

The I.E.P.
Process

January 12, 2008

8: 30 – 10:30 AM

February 4, 2008

6:30 – 8:30 PM

March 8, 2008

8: 30 – 10:30 AM

April 7, 2008

6:30 – 8:30 PM

January 12, 2008

10:30 – 12:30 PM

February 11, 2008

6:30 – 8:30 PM

March 8, 2008

10:30 – 12:30 PM

April 14, 2008

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Assertive Communication

January 12, 2008

1:15 – 3:15 PM

February 18, 2008

6:30 – 8:30 PM

March 8, 2008

1:15 – 3:15 PM

April 21, 2008

6:30 – 8:30 PM

No Hunger Holiday

F.A.C.T. was once again proud to be a part of the No Hunger Holiday Campaign. This program was created by Frank Conard and for six years running F.A.C.T. has participated. The Knights of Columbus, along with other kind donors, sponsor the event and it is up to us to ensure that our customers have the opportunity to be included.

The holiday season is a wonderful time of the year and it is even better when all families get to enjoy a turkey dinner with all the fixings in the privacy of their own home.